



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION

CAPITOL

CORNER

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BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

On Thursday, July 30, 2009, the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) Appropriations Act. Provisions of interest to early childhood advocates in the bill remained unchanged from the Subcommittee-passed version, including:

- \$10 million for a new Promise Neighborhoods initiative to support community-wide approaches to lifting children out of poverty (same level as the FY 2010 House bill);
- \$2.127 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (same level as FY 2009 and the FY 2010 House bill)
- \$700 million for the Community Services Block Grant Program - Grants to States (same level as FY 2009 and the FY 2010 House bill);
- \$7.235 billion for Head Start (same level as the President's FY 2010 request and the FY 2010 House bill); and
- No funding (\$0) for Even Start as proposed by the President's FY 2010 request (FY 2010 House bill restores funding to FY 2009 level of \$66.45 million).

Attached is a comprehensive chart of funding totals for the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to date (Note: The chart does not reflect the managers amendment accepted at the full Appropriations Committee). With the House in a month long recess which began last week, and the Senate likely to recess at the end of this week, additional action on the FY 2010 Senate LHHS Bill is not expected until September when it will be brought to the floor for a full vote.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

As reported last week, an agreement was announced between four fiscally conservative House "Blue Dog" Democrats and the chamber's Democratic leadership allowing the Energy and Commerce Committee to resume debate and pass a bill on July 31, 2009. It was the last of three House committees required to pass the bill before it goes to the full chamber. Democratic leaders



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and committee heads will now have to find a way to resolve differences in the three different versions of the bill approved by three different committees — Education and Labor, Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce — in time for the House to consider a merged bill when the full chamber returns from recess in September. This will be a closely watched issue in Washington this August as the House's more liberal members have raised objections to the carefully crafted compromise with the "Blue Dog" Democrats on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Progress in the Senate has been far harder to achieve. The Senate Finance Committee is continuing to work to produce a bipartisan compromise bill with the expectation of introducing legislation for mark up by the Committee by mid-September. It will then be up to the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to merge the Finance-passed measure with a bill approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee prior to full Senate consideration.

EARLY RELEASE OF PHASE II STIMULUS FUNDS

On Monday, August 3, 2009, U.S. Education Secretary Duncan announced that the Department will accelerate stimulus spending by making \$11.37 billion in Title I, IDEA, and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) funding, as part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)*, available to states one month earlier than expected. "I applaud this critical step forward by the Department of Education," said Vice President Biden. "With over 30,000 Recovery Act projects already approved nationwide and billions in relief flowing to hard-hit families and businesses, we've made a lot of progress in a short time—but we continue to focus every day on finding ways to ramp up our efforts to put Americans back to work and rebuild our economy." On April 1, 2009, the Department awarded 50% of each state's Title I ARRA funds, 50% of each state's IDEA ARRA funds, and 50% of each state's VR ARRA funds. The remaining 50% was to be made available on September 30, and the announcement will move up that timeline ensuring that these funds are made available to all states on or around September 1. The early release in particular of IDEA ARRA funds of \$6.1 billion will support, in part, funding for early intervention service providers to implement strategies to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

COALITION FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND THE UNITED WAY HOST WEBINAR ON PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

On July 30, 2009, the Coalition for Community Schools and the United Way for America held a webinar on how Title I funds can be used to support parent and community engagement activities. The *American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)* requires that 1% of Title I funding be set aside for community and parental engagement. Also, the Department of Education's guidance on Title I recovery funds explicitly identifies encouraging parental involvement as an example of how to use these resources. Heidi Rosenberg, Senior Research

Analyst at the Harvard Family Research Project, emphasized the importance and effectiveness of having a district-wide policy supporting parental engagement and community involvement efforts for all schools – not only low-performing ones. Roberta Malavenda, a Consultant at United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, then discussed how some school districts have used Title I funding to support transition programs for students moving from early childhood education into kindergarten as well as “Kinder camps,” both of which rely on parents spending time at these programs and playing with their children. Sarah Pearson, Deputy Director at the Coalition for Community Schools, shared how using Title I funds to support the efforts of the many private and public partners involved in the success of community schools is an effective use of these dollars.

For more information, visit <http://www.communityschools.org/>.